

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LOUREN 00319 081455Z

43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

L-03 DRC-01 /116 W

----- 076851

R 081150Z MAY 74

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2507

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LOURENCO MARQUES 0319

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, ELAB, MZ

SUBJECT: MOZAMBICAN MINE WORKERS DEFY CUSTOMS AGENTS

1. ACCORDING TO DIARIO OF MAY 8 APPROXIMATELY 700 MOZAMBICAN MINE WORKERS OF WENELA TRAIN RETURNING TO MOZAMBIQUE FROM SOUTH AFRICA ON PREVIOUS AFTERNOON REFUSED INITIALLY TO OPEN THEIR BAGS FOR INSPECTION BY CUSTOMS OFFICIALS AT BORDER TOWN OF RESSANO GARCIA. WORKERS REPORTEDLY FEARED CUSTOMS AGENTS WOULD CONFISCATE TOOLS THEY HAD PURCHASED IN SOUTH AFRICA FOR USE IN CONSTRUCTING NEW HOMES IN MOZAMBIQUE. SINCE WORKERS WOULD NOT OBEY ORDERS OF CUSTOMS OFFICIALS, GOVERNOR OF LOURENCO MARQUES DISTRICT, LIEUTENANT COLONEL CUSTODIO NUNES, ASSISTANT CUSTOMS COMMANDER, ANTONIO MACEDO, AND CONTINGENT OF PUBLIC SECURITY, SHOCK, AND MILITARY POLICE WENT IMMEDIATELY TO RESSANO GARCIA. NUNES AND MACEDO POINTED OUT TO WORKERS THAT CUSTOMS PROCEDURES ARE EMPLOYED WORLDWIDE AND THUS PERSUADED THEM TO COMPLY PEACEFULLY. TOOLS WERE NOT CONFISCATED.

2. COMMENT: WE ARE INFORMED BY DIRECTOR OF WENELA THAT
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PAGE 02 LOUREN 00319 081455Z

MOST MINE WORKERS WERE SITTING AROUND CALMLY, BUT THAT

THEIR DEFIANCE WAS APPARENTLY PROVOKED BY ONE OR MORE
AGITATORS OF UNKNOWN POLITICAL AFFILIATION WHO WENT FROM
CARRIAGE TO CARRIAGE TALKING WITH WORKERS. PREVIOUSLY THERE
HAS BEEN LITTLE TROUBLE OVER BAGGAGE INSPECTIONS, WHICH
OCCASIONALLY TURN UP BITS OF WIRE, DYNAMITE FUSES, AND
OTHER MATERIAL PURCHASED FROM MINES WHICH CANNOT LEGALLY
BE BROUGHT INTO MOZAMBIQUE. TO MINIMIZE EFFECTS OF POSSIBLE
FUTURE CONFRONTATIONS OF SIMILAR NATURE, TRAINS WILL HENCE-
FORTH CARRY SMALLER GROUPS OF MINE WORKERS RETURNING TO
MOZAMBIQUE. REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER ABOVE IS ISOLATED
INCIDENT OR WILL BE REPEATED. NEXT MINE-WORKERS TRAIN
ARRIVES MAY 10.
VAN OSS

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